

SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

REPORT OF THE 48th ANNUAL CONFERENCE (1952)

held at

CONWAY HALL

RED LION SQUARE

LONDON.

on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11th, 12th and 13th

April 1952.

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REPORT OF THE 48th ANNUAL CONFERENCE (1952) held
CONEAY HALL, LONDON, on FRIDAY, SATURDAY, and SUNDAY
11th, 12th, and 13th April 1952.

SESSIONS: 1st Day: 11.05.a.m. -- 6.00.p.m.
2nd Day: 11.15.a.m. -- 5.30.p.m.
3rd Day: 11.20.a.m. -- 6.00.p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

	<u>Delegates Present.</u>	<u>Branches represented.</u>
<u>1st Day</u>	72	27
Delegates from Paddington Branch were permitted to sit without credentials. Delegates of Brighton Branch (formed within six months preceding Conference) were given permission to sit and vote under Rule 22. Eccles Branch was not represented.		

<u>2nd Day</u>	59	25
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A Delegate from Glasgow(City) was given permission to sit without credentials.
Dartford, Eccles and Tottenham Branches were not represented.

<u>3rd Day</u>	70	27
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Eccles Branch was not represented.
Central Branch members were unable to return any voting papers as those had inadvertently been sent out late from Head Office.

CHAIRMAN: A.Price.
VICER-CHAIRMAN: W.Waters.
SECRETARIES: R.Guy and R.Jones.

REPORT OF THE 48TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: No action.
2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ATTENDANCES: No action.
3. BRANCHES, MEMBERSHIP and ORGANISATION:

(a) Branches

Item For Discussion No.30. was moved as a resolution as follows:

Resolution - Fulham (Flitter) and Manchester(Atkinson) "That Branches whose membership comprises 50 or more members be encouraged to form an additional branch in a neighbouring area"

Lost 13-28

Fulham Branch Branches of over 50 members became unwieldy. In branches there is usually a small nucleus attending, filling all the posts and doing most of the work, and the rest of the Branch

are, with such a situation, content. Some ruling that Branches over 50 members should be split up to form two branches would tend to make more members active.

Kingston Branch. The growth of the Party could not be forced, e.g. Dagenham Branch having a large membership covering a large area, decided to split. The result was that Dagenham with members living near was very active, and members of Romford Branch whose members lived over a scattered area were not active. Discussion groups might be formed among members who lived away from the location of branches.

Islington Branch. Such matters were for the branches to individually decide upon.

West Ham Branch. The proposition sounded like regimentation; that on balance, a large group was more encouraging than a small one.

Manchester Branch. If a branch was deteriorating it might stimulate activity if a division took place, otherwise the branch should be left alone.

Kolvaingrove Branch. The formation of their Branch from Glasgow Branch had been a good thing, resulting in an increase in the membership of the Party.

Membership

for discussion - Fulham "That the question of readmittance into the Party of previously expelled members be discussed."

Resolution - S.W.London (McLoughlin) and Croydon (Rheda) "That this Conference recommends the E.C. when dealing with expelled members re-applying for membership to re-admit the applicant in the event of him giving an undertaking not to act in a similar way which resulted in his expulsion." Lost by a large majority

Fulham That a previously expelled member should not be considered beyond the pale for all time; a generous socialist attitude should be brought to bear on all cases.

West Ham That a member might leave the Party, become prominent in another organisation, and then try to get back into the Party and, if re-admitted, might then be an embarrassment to the Party. It would cause him to value his membership if it was difficult to get back into the Party.

McLoughlin S.W.L Such members are not wrong for all time; the Party should consider when application is made for re-admission: (1) whether applicant is willing to retract from whatever caused him to be expelled. (2) whether the retraction seems genuine. If the E.C. are satisfied that he is not likely to do anything detrimental to the Party, he should be re-admitted.

Lockwood S.W.L. All we should concern ourselves with is, is the man a socialist, will he carry out socialist propaganda; it was an outrageous procedure to investigate his general character as some seemed to wish.

Manchester If the question of embarrassment arose, it was to the re-admitted member only. We should not bar members for misdemeanors of the past, experience makes him a better socialist than before.

Rhoda - Croydon If a comrade has been expelled he should give an undertaking that there would be no re-occurrence of the behaviour which caused him to leave the Party.

McClatchie Discussion on the wrong lines. All members should ask themselves is, is the member now liable to go in harmony with the Party; that is all the E.C. ever asks.

(c) Central Branch

(i) Membership

Item for Discussion 32 was moved as follows:-

Resolution - Bloomsbury (Offord and Adams) "That this Conference recommends the E.C. to report on ways and means of increasing the activity of Central Branch members in the propaganda and work of the Party." Carried nem. con.

Bloomsbury Central Branch members, in the main more card members, should be brought into closer touch with the Party and encouraged to bring its name and ideas to the attention of people in the area in which they lived.

(ii) Finances

No action

(d) Groups

No action

(e) Ballot Procedure: The Second Ballot

No action

(f) Ballot Procedure: Ballot by Post

Resolution - Islington "That this Conference is of the opinion that the method of pre-paid postal ballot should be discontinued and we revert to the former method of distributing ballot papers through branch secretaries." Carried 39 - 34

Terry - Islington Experience had shown that the new method of pre-paid postal ballot did not yield any better results than the former method; it was far more efficient for ballot papers to be sent out by branch secretaries instead of direct to each member by Head Office.

McLoughlin - S.W.L. This scheme was supported by S.W.London initially as an experiment, but the time and money expended did not justify its retention.

(g) Ballot Procedure, Party Polls, Written Statements

Resolution - Hampstead "That this Conference is opposed to the donation of Head Office Funds to branches for the issue of controversial circulars in Party Polls." Carried 42 - 27

(h) Conference Procedure

Resolution - Islington "That this Conference instructs the Executive Committee to call for nominations for a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the 1955 Conference, a call to be sent to all branches with the Preliminary Agenda. All nominations received to be sent out with the Final Agenda and Branch Delegates to operate as instructed at Conference. The comrades appointed to operate at the 1953 Delegate Meeting, 1954 Conference and any Party Meeting that may occur. This shall be the method for appointing Chairman and Vice Chairman for all future Conferences, Delegate Meetings and Party Meetings; no other method of appointment shall be allowed." Lost 21 - 53

Terry - Islington The object of having an annual chairman was that the comrade who is delegated for this job would have time to familiarise himself with the agenda, and those not having been chairman before would be able to more easily familiarise themselves with the job.

Grisley - Southend. Thought this a dangerous procedure and the thin end of the wedge towards a permanent chairman.

Resolution - Fulham "That this Conference instructs the Executive Committee to consider changing the procedure at Conferences and Delegate Meetings along the following lines:

- a. That the Executive Committee call for resolutions and amendments to rule etc., as now.
- b. That branches convene special meetings to discuss all items.
- c. That all branches send three delegates to Conference regardless of the size of the branch.
- d. That delegates attend Conference to state their branch's attitude.
- e. That delegates take notes of other branch's points of view.
- f. That the Executive Committee prepare through the Secretary a report of Conference proceedings including discussion (naming the branch contributing the discussion) together with all resolutions, amendments, and amendments to rules, to be sent to all branches.
- g. That the branches will call special meetings to discuss the resolutions, etc., in the light of the Executive Committee report and the report of their delegates. The members will vote at these meetings on the resolutions (for and against) and this will be returned to Head Office and the result declared.

Where the above conflicts with Rule 22, it shall be regarded as an amendment to rule.

It will be seen that no voting will take place at the Conference (except in matters of extreme urgency). This is considered preferable to the present procedure where branches instruct their delegates on how to vote without necessarily having heard the views and informed of other branches. The suggested procedure will have the effect of improving discussion at Conferences thereby enhancing knowledge of members. It will make our Conferences and Delegate meetings exciting events. The voting will be an accurate reflection of opinion".

Lost 38-47

Flitter - Fulham. The resolution was not sufficiently clear. Actual procedure very little different from to-day.

Atkinson - Manchester. Opposed to the resolution. The suggestion but too unwieldy in practice.

LaTouche - St. Pancras. Resolution put forward several suggestions, there would be a considerable saving if amended. Resolutions were sometimes turned down and members could have heard other opinions at Conference if they may have decided the other way. At present at next annual conference before anything can be decided in such situations the delegates hands were tied; the

...ance with decisions made previously by the branch, no matter how good the case put forward at Conference might be.
Lake - S.W. London. At present, a dead and alive method of discussion because instructed delegates could not be swayed either way. Time was wasted in taking votes which could be taken outside conference. We should listen to the arguments for and against and let the Party vote afterwards.

Camberwell Delegate. Matters are all well thrashed out by branches beforehand and not many new points are brought out at Conference.

Fulham Delegate. The present method was futile. Delegates may fully discuss matters but very little can be done to change their opinion. The proposed method would not be more unworkable. Instead of instructing delegates how to vote at Conference, the delegates would go back to their branches and report on the ideas expressed at Conference; branches would then be able to make more sound decisions, the knowledge of all members would be enhanced. At present, as far as decisions were concerned, delegates reported back to their branches. If it was true that no new material was brought out at Conference why was it held.

Resolution - Hampstead Branch. "That this Conference is in favour of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman being elected at the Annual Conference to take charge of all Party Meetings including Conference and Delegate Meeting for the ensuing year". Lost 24-49.

Hampstead. Such an arrangement did not mean a permanent chairman.

Resolution - Hampstead Branch. "That this Conference is in favour of amending Conference Standing Orders as follows:- Clause (b) Line 2: Delete all after 'challenged' and insert 'by the following motion: that the Chairman leave the chair: and that if this motion is carried, the Vice-chairman shall act as Chairman until the item in dispute is disposed of'". Lost 30-49.

Hampstead Delegate. When the ruling of the Chairman was challenged he should vacate the Chair for the time being and resume after the disposal of the matter disputed by him.

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| (i) <u>Internal Party Journal.</u> | <u>No action.</u> |
| (j) <u>Revision of the Declaration of Principles.</u> | <u>No action.</u> |
| (k) <u>Party Year.</u> | <u>No action.</u> |
| (l) <u>Summer School.</u> | <u>No action.</u> |
| (m) <u>Head Office Organisation.</u> | <u>No action.</u> |
| (n) <u>History of the Party and the Companion Parties.</u> | |

Item for Discussion (Manchester Branch) was moved as follows:-

Resolution - Paddington (May) and Hackney (Ivimey) "That this Conference recommends the E.C. to consider the possibility of an individual or group of members preparing a bound volume to be published in 1954 on the Party's history over the past fifty years".

Carried 33 - 13.

Amendment - Lewisham (Guy and Edmonds) "That 'In 1954' be deleted". Lost by a large majority.

Manchester Delegate. This could be deposited in the libraries as a record of the Party's history, and would provide tangible evidence of our consistency

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| (o) <u>Head Office Library.</u> | <u>No action.</u> |
| (p) <u>Central Organiser's Report.</u> | <u>No action.</u> |
| (q) <u>Premises.</u> | <u>No action.</u> |
| (r) <u>Membership and Armed Forces.</u> | |

Resolution - Camberwell Branch. "That members of the Armed Forces shall not be eligible for membership of the Party". Lost 13 - 66.

Resolution - St. Pancras Branch "That this Conference members of H.M. Forces should be ineligible for membership of the Party, and all Party members joining H.M. Forces resign from the Party".

Lost 22 - 57.

Amendment - Lewisham Branch. "That this resolution be amended to read:- 'That this Conference rules that all members of the Armed Forces be ineligible for membership of the Party, and any member joining the Armed Forces shall automatically cease to be a member of the Party'.".

Lost 17 - 62.

(A motion that the vote be taken was carried by a large majority after discussion on the above resolution and amendment).

Resolution - Paddington Branch (May and Mercer). "That this Conference re-affirms the decision of the 1933 Conference which was as follows:- 'That this Conference endorses the ruling given by the 29th E.C. on 5th July 1932, on this question, viz:-

'That as many workers are forced by economic pressure to join the Armed Forces, the E.C. rules, that such employment shall not necessarily prevent workers from joining the Party. All Forms 'A' shall receive consideration and each application shall be decided on its merits'.
and the 1949 Party Poll which affirmed:-
'That any member who voluntarily (i.e. other than conscripted) joins the Armed Forces (Army, Navy and Air Force) shall be deemed to have acted in a manner detrimental to the interests of the Party".

Carried 42 - 8.

St. Pancras Branch. Must establish the fact once and for all that it is an embarrassment to the Party for members to be in the Armed Forces. Tribunals could argue that the Party allows its members in the Armed Forces.

The General Secretary informed the Conference of previous Party decisions on this matter.

St. Pancras Branch. Workers entering the Armed Forces cease to have civil rights and the Party has no control over them.

Lewisham Branch. On the amendment. The Party should make a new decision. The E.C. recently had two similar applications and rejected the first but accepted the second. Judging cases on their merits is not the best way. There is nothing more anti-working class- than the Armed Forces.

Paddington Branch. Opposed to both resolution and amendment. With more and more people being taken into the Armed Forces the civilian population cannot be differentiated from the members of the Armed Forces. All are members of the working-class and are all open to Socialist propaganda.

Leyton Branch. If the resolution were passed it would make conscientious objection a condition of membership. Most adult males are members of the Armed Forces and for economic and other reasons it was not always possible to resist going into the Armed Forces.

Islington Branch. This would place us in the absurd position of possibly having to lapse members who might be 'Z' reservists for two weeks per year while they did their training and re-admit them afterwards. Could not understand the objection to this particular form of employment since many civilians are doing jobs which are far more obnoxious e.g., those making atomic bombs etc. We could not draw the line of demarcation.

D'Arcy (E.C. Member) Ludicrous to oppose war and allow members to go into the Armed Forces, and quite illogical to consider Forms 'A' on their merits since this was an anti-working class job. In the army one cannot do any of the practical work of the Party. Class 'Z' reservists -- these were at liberty to apply as conscientious objectors.

at any time a member of the Armed Forces could apply for membership of the Party at a branch which opposed the acceptance of workers and be turned down, then go along to another branch which is in favour and be allowed into the Party. Members of the Armed Forces are more directly concerned with anti-working class activity than any other body. e.g., They have no trade union rights, and must obey without question.

S.W. London Branch. It was no more ludicrous to oppose war and allow members into the Armed Forces than to oppose capitalism and allow members to make profits for capitalists, moreover no member of the working-class who understands the Party will go into the Armed Forces unless the pressure brought to bear on him is more than he is able to resist. If a man understands and wants Socialism, then we have an obligation to accept him as a member of the Party.

Paddington Branch. Cases should be dealt with on their merits. Instances a member of the Party who is also in the Armed Forces who joined up at the age of 14 to play a musical instrument in the regimental band, and who does more work for the Party than many members who are not in the Armed Forces.

Hampstead Branch. Members of the Party do undesirable jobs. We keep capitalists in the Party and members of the working-class who are members of the Armed Forces, out, the position was ridiculous. Members were separating soldiers from the rest of the working class. The resolution was a pacifist one. We should stand by the present ruling.

Southend Branch. Regard it as most harmful for Socialists to be members of the Armed Forces; it is a contradiction.

E.C. Members (Turner) The view should be that as Socialism is the object of the Party one cannot reconcile membership of the Armed Forces with the struggle for Socialism. The work of the Party is being carried on by members who are not in the army or navy and the work of the Party can only be carried on by the organised members. The C.O. tribunals recognise the incompatibility for a Socialist to be in the army.

E.C. Member (Lawrence) The people who are allowed their conscientious objection by the tribunals are regarded as freaks who cannot be conveniently fitted into the Armed Forces. If we are to be logical, then workers occupations should be given on application for Party membership forms and be taken into account when considering acceptance. If a man is doing something that society as a whole accepts, for example, being a soldier, then we cannot exclude him from the Party. There is no especial merit in being a conscientious objector, it does not mean that one is exempted from helping the capitalists in their wars; to work during total war means helping in that war, there is no escaping it.

Manchester Branch. It seems that the amendment is the only alternative. As far as embarrassment is concerned, who are conscripted, generally realise that they must give up being members of the Party.

Dartford Branch. Opposed. As time goes on there will be increasing numbers of workers in the Armed Forces. Workers in the army are allowed to vote and belong to political parties.

Ealing Branch. The resolution would bar people who have to join the army long before they have heard of the Party and subsequently become Socialists. Further, the Overseas parties are looking to us for guidance. The penalties for refusing to join up are very severe. In New Zealand workers got six years imprisonment for refusing to join the army. In France the reservists are called out often, and those who refuse, go to jail.

4. PROPAGANDA.

(a) Provincial Propaganda.

Resolution - St. Pancras. "That this Conference recommends the Executive Committee to carry out a provincial propaganda tour on the same basis as the resolution carried by the 1951 Annual Conference".

(The resolution referred to was 'That this Conference is not in favour of appointing a full time Provincial Propagandist Organiser at the present and instructs the Executive Committee to appoint two or more members for a period of three months

ted

this
vote

from

follows:

"That

branch
28.

to work together in different Provincial Centres during the and Summer each year; these members to be paid an allowance between them and the E.C.")

Amendment - S.W.London "Delete 'instructs' and insert 'recommends'"

Carried 70 - 6

Amendment - Manchester "Add 'but for a period of five months'."

Carried 48 - 31

Lost 30 - 36

Manchester Branch. The Branch was preparing four teams to work in co-operation during the coming summer season.

Birmingham Branch. Were sure that use could be found in their area for Propagandists over five months and suggested that the season should be from May until the end of September.

S.W.London Branch. Felt that the E.C. should not be tied. Provincial Branches were best able to judge the possibilities of Propaganda in their areas.

(b) Centrally Organised Indoor Meetings: London

Resolution Hackney "That, in the opinion of this Conference, more publicity should be given to indoor meetings."

Carried by a large majority

(A motion 'that the vote be taken' on this resolution was also carried)

The General Secretary read the E.C. Report on the subject for the period 1951-52 viz: Five meetings were held at Lambeth, Kensington, Shoreditch, Islington Town Halls and Conway Hall respectively.

Hackney Branch. With their Meeting, Bill-posting had not been successfully carried out; in future the actual posting sites should be specified as firms often used unsuitable sites. The subject matter of the Meetings was not sufficiently attractive.

West Ham Branch. The Meetings were unsuccessful because of members' lack of interest and not because of the lack of publicity in the advertising field. It was the efforts of the members that determined the success of meetings.

Resolution - Islington "That this Conference is of the opinion that most indoor meetings should be arranged and organised by the Branches and not from the Centre."

Carried by a large majority.

Islington Branch. That the E.C. had handicapped the Propaganda Committee (who organised the meetings) by cutting down expenses and, therefore, if Branches ran the meetings themselves the E.C. could not intervene.

Bloomsbury Branch. They had carried out for years successful meetings without the assistance of Head Office.

E.C. Member (Groves). The reason for our failure was because of the political apathy prevailing at the moment. The Party should hold smaller meetings and, therefore, cut down on publicity and hall-hire costs for the time being.

Paddington Branch. Considered that the whole method of running the five meetings had been mistaken. The Kensington Town Hall one had been successful and that was because the branches had given some thought to the organisation of the meeting. When these five meetings had been proposed the E.C. should have made some effort to obtain funds for that purpose. £90 had been lost on these meetings in all, and yet a previous resolution from Paddington Branch to hold a May Day meeting at the

theatre
have att
Large
responsibility.
General Secretary
has practically
around periods, or the
of funds, but at the
unfortunately, not at the
prepare a lecture on current
(c) Mid-day Meetings
(d) East London Area
(e) Speakers and
(f) Propaganda
(g) Order

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Theatre had been turned down owing to lack of funds. More than half had attended this one meeting than did the whole of the other meetings. Large meetings must be a Party effort, not an individual responsibility.

General Secretary. The booking of Halls in London for Sunday meetings was practically impossible; either they were booked in advance for long periods, or they were not open. Large scale advertising was the sound thing, but at the present time this was impossible owing to lack of funds. Meetings should be held on items of current interest but, unfortunately, not many propagandists were available who could prepare a lecture on current issues at short notice.

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| (c) <u>Mid-day Meetings</u> | <u>No Action.</u> |
| (d) <u>East London Area</u> | <u>No Action.</u> |
| (e) <u>Speakers and Meetings</u> | <u>No Action.</u> |
| (f) <u>Propaganda: Special meetings of Organisers etc.</u> | <u>No Action.</u> |
| (g) <u>Statistics</u> | |

Resolution - Paddington (May and Walters) "That this Conference recommends that in future E.C. Reports to Conferences and Delegate Meetings a complete list of propaganda statistics be included".

Carried by a large majority.

Paddington and Bloomsbury Branches. Regretted that the previous statistics list had been abandoned in favour of a summary only; this told delegates nothing of the work done over the whole year; it did not show a true picture of propaganda. No information on individual branch activity was possible by a mere summary.

S.W. London Branch Could not see the necessity for this detailed information; there was nothing to prevent the Propaganda Committee from making monthly reports

(h) General

Item for Discussion - Hackney Branch. 'Party Propaganda'

Item for Discussion - St. Pancras Branch. 'Is outdoor propaganda out of date?'

Hackney Branch. Party had now reached the stage where it must reconsider the type and method of Propaganda. To date the Party had been intent on establishing itself, but now it could afford to spend time on research. The important task of the Party was to make Socialists, and propaganda should be our strength. Our propaganda methods had been useful, but now we should look to the content of our propaganda.

St. Pancras Branch Whilst a few years ago, when people had no other diversions, they may have been prepared to listen to meetings in the parks and at street corners, now things were different and outdoor meetings were not generally speaking very successful, except at well known speaking stations such as Hyde Park.

Kingston Branch Branch experienced increasing difficulty at outdoor meetings. There was also a certain frustration amongst members themselves, and some outlying Branches could not rely upon speakers turning up to meetings. Our technique of propaganda should be improved, and we should strive for more lively propaganda including more frequent publications.

Southend Branch That the most important thing was for members generally to improve their approach to people outside the Party.

E.C. member (Groves) Outdoor propaganda was not as effective as it used to be; how can we replace outdoor propaganda if it is out of date; the Branch have ideas for propaganda among trade unions; the Party has large attendances at our meetings at Lincoln's Inn and although the audience largely agrees with us they do not join the Party.

We must concentrate on other methods, eg. getting our speakers to address more organizations. Outdoor propaganda is on its way out and we must make sure that we have something with which to replace it.

Fulham Branch The Party has been based for the past 40 years on outdoor propaganda but nine tenths of the working class do not go to outdoor meetings. Our meetings are becoming less popular with the counter-attractions of T.V., the Radio etc. Even at election times we get very small audiences. The Party has not the machinery to talk to large numbers of the working class. Therefore, as we can address only a small section of the working class, we should be concerned to decide which section this shall be. Our literature is merely an adjunct to our meetings but is without life. We should be more selective regarding outdoor meeting places and scrap the poor ones. Why not outdoor debates, forums etc.

West Ham Branch What we speak about on the platform is dependent on the happenings of the moment. We have pointed out that there is no difference between the Labour Party and the Conservatives and this message has been widely accepted. We are told to get more speakers to trade unions but not how to accomplish this task. Outdoor propaganda is not out of date.

E.C. Member (Turner) Most of us say we need more of the same type of propaganda which suggests that we have to get to the politically interested, but people may not know that they are politically interested. We have spent out time opposing political interests. We should speak about life. Every man and woman in the world is interested in life. We never talk about socialism and what it is. We only point out the undesirability of capitalism. This does not mean that we should stop analysing capitalism, but that we should go further e.g., people do not see a world where war is not possible. They see war as part of human nature. The socialist movement has lost the fire and zeal to see the world as it should be. Just to criticise the present does not help. We should have more discussion among ourselves, for this is important. Outdoor propaganda is not outmoded, but the method of speaking is outmoded. It is the contents of the propaganda that affects the medium.

Hampstead Branch Our propaganda is mainly motivated by a negative aspect, and the Party should pay more attention to written propaganda. More members must devote themselves to the study of politics and economics. We should produce low-priced pamphlets as a much better form of propaganda.

Camberwell Branch None of the speakers have stated what should be done. If members think that outdoor propaganda is out of date, then they should be able to say what should be put in its place. Bad times are coming back and people will go to listen to socialist propaganda more readily. Outdoor propaganda is not out of date but outdoor debates are useless.

Manchester Branch We are trying to work out a programme of outdoor propaganda in the outlying cotton towns. The receptivity of the working class is there when problems are confronting them. Faith in the Labour Party is dying. We should also use our imagination with regard to getting a publication which is more in line with daily papers. The Party could get a weekly paper out along with the S.S. There seems to be no money for outdoor propaganda, but there always is for electoral activity. We should be getting into the outlying places such as the cotton towns of Lancashire which are becoming receptive to the propaganda of the Socialist Party.

S.W. London Branch Propaganda is propounding the ideas which are contained and spring from the Party's object and declaration of principles. Particular methods are very often determined by individuals. Outdoor propaganda is one of the most important forms of placing the Party's case and literature in the hands of those who are listening. There are vital points to which more time should be given i.e. training all young members in the understanding of the Party's declaration of

Post Ham Branch
stations and fail
reacted upon Drat
E.C. Member

its implications, and in the history and traditions of

Branch The problem was to learn to apply the principles of the Party. Speakers should take some particular aspect which concerned the listeners and thoroughly develop it. First we must understand capitalism, the emphasis should not be on the future. We have to develop the self confidence of the working class and show that it is in their interest to change the world and that they can do so.

Test Has Branch Many speakers showed a preference for certain stations and failed to turn up at stations they did not like. This reacted upon Branches who often abandoned meetings altogether.

E.C. Member (Turner) Since the end of the War many new speakers had passed the test but a great number of them did not speak and those who did were over-worked. A number of stations were of little use. Branches must look after their own meetings and they would soon eliminate the useless stations. The Party should try to make Branches self-reliant, and increase the information available to speakers.

Resolution - Carberwell (Baldwin) and Fulham (Cox) "That this Conference recommends the E.C. to abandon the present method of testing speakers and let Branches do this, sending remarks to the E.C. in the same way as Forms 'A' for approval."
Lost by a large majority.

Leyton Branch Fault did not lie with the speakers test, but with the members. The machinery was there for turning out speakers; not enough information forthcoming on general knowledge and current affairs.

Manchester Branch. This should not be carried out by Provincial Branches as some branches deteriorate and might pass speakers unfit to take the platform.

Paddington Branch. Speakers should not be left to carry on alone, having passed the speakers test, but should be treated as probationary speakers, and help out more experienced speakers for a period

Propaganda Committee (Howard) This method had been adopted and new speakers had assisted meetings run by their branches for about six months before being asked to go on the central Speakers List.

E.C. Member (Lake) Not a waste of time for any member to take the Speakers test whether he intended to speak or not. All members should equip themselves with this knowledge.

Resolution - Hackney (James and Ivimey) "That this Conference recommends that a committee be set up to investigate the possibilities of selective propaganda"
Lost 13 - 35.

Resolution - Bloomsbury (Clark) and Paddington (May) "That this Conference strongly recommends the E.C. to investigate the whole question of propaganda with a view to securing the fullest utilisation of Party resources, i.e. the training of speakers; methods of enabling speakers to keep up-to-date on current questions by the organisation of meetings at which speakers and other members can discuss policy, topical issues, and methods of organising outdoor and indoor propaganda."
Carried nem.con.

Resolution - S.W. London (McLaughlin and Hassett) "That this Conference recommends the E.C. to instruct the Propaganda Committee, wherever possible to pair up each member passing the speakers test with a regular speaker for a period of three months".

Carried by a large majority.

Resolution - Manchester. (Atkinson and Littlemore) "That this Conference recommends the E.C. to dispense with the present rota of speakers and implement the method of sending names and addresses of speakers to branches for personal contact".

Lost by a large majority.

Item for Discussion -- Leyton Branch. "The responsibility of utterances made by non-qualified Party Speakers".
(After some discussion a motion of 'Next Business' was carried.)

5. LITERATURE.

(There was insufficient time for Conference to deal with this section and it was taken as read. Therefore, no action was taken on the following items. Resolutions on the Final Agenda on which Delegates had been instructed were put to the vote with results as indicated below)

- (a) Pamphlets Committee
- (b) Writing of pamphlets
- (c) "Questions of the Day"
- (d) "Socialism and Religion"
- (e) "Socialist Standard"
- (f) "Socialist Standard". Price: Number Printed: Paper Situation.

Resolution - St. Pancras Branch "That this Conference considers that in order to avoid the loss to Head Office the 'Socialist Standard' should be sold to Branches at the full price." Lost 14-61. X

- (g) Rejected Articles: Return
- (h) Literature Sales
- (i) Book Department
- (j) "Socialist Manifesto"

Resolution - Southend Branch "That a similar publication to the 'Socialist Party of Canada's 'Socialist Manifesto' be printed by the Party". Carried 37 - 21

Amendment - Manchester Branch "Add 'and that the Party's pamphlet 'Socialism' be withdrawn". Lost 18 - 59

- (k) Pamphlets on current affairs

Resolution - Southend Branch "That the Executive Committee be recommended to publish occasional pamphlets dealing with current affairs as and when funds become available for this purpose". Carried 32 - 18

Amendment - Manchester Branch "Delete 'recommended' and insert 'instructed' and delete also 'as and when funds become available for this purpose'" Lost 13 - 38

Amendment - Paddington Branch "Delete all wording after 'current affairs'". Lost 21 - 28

6. EDUCATION

Resolution - Paddington Branch "That this Conference recommends the E.C. to review the Party educational system prior to the commencement of the 1952/3 sessions" Carried unan.

Paddington Branch. Not satisfied with the way the education matters were going; the development of lecturers and tutors from the classes was not satisfactory and the classes had not catered properly for all who wished to attend.

7. TRAINING OF MEMBERS FOR FULL TIME POSTS

No action.

8. PUBLICITY

Resolution - S.W. London Branch and Camberwell Branch "That this Conference deplores the fact that Branches are not taking advantage of the circular letters available to Trade Union Branches and urges the E.C. to bring the attention of Branches to this important means of propaganda." Carried unan.

Palmers Green Branch Members of the Party in Trade Union Branches had obtained a hearing for Party Speakers; all members should do more work in this direction, such action was more effective than circular

Resolution - the Party's General Bloc
containing activities, Parliament

which were often ignored by Trade Unions.

ACTIVITY

Resolution - Blackbury and Lewisham "That this Conference instructs the Executive Committee to contest the next General Election."

Carried 44 - 37

Resolution - Paddington Branch "That this Conference re-affirms the Party's support of Parliamentary activity and that at the next General Election a candidate or candidates shall be put forward."

Carried 46 - 35

Resolution - St. Pancras Branch "That as this Conference regards the contesting of elections as an integral part of the Party's activities, and the logical outcome of our propaganda relating to Parliament, this Conference instructs the Executive Committee to prepare for and contest elections at all times subject to the necessary funds being available."

Carried 44 - 31

Amendment - Paddington Branch "Delete all wording after 'at all times.'"

Lost 35 - 39

Resolution - Hackney Branch "That no Parliamentary Election shall be contested without the Executive Committee first obtaining the approval of the Party by taking a Party Poll."

Lost 25 - 55

Amendment - Paddington Branch "That the words 'first obtaining' be altered to 'having' and all words after 'Party' be deleted."

Lost 32 - 45

(a motion that the vote be taken was carried on the above resolution and amendment)

Resolution - Kolvingrove Branch "That only a constituency or constituencies in which a least 600 'Socialist Standards' have been sold regularly for a period of at least six months immediately prior to the election be contested."

Lost 5 - 66

Resolution - Kolvingrove Branch "That the Executive Committee obtain a quarterly report from Branches preparing constituencies for electoral action on methods being used and results obtained. The Executive Committee to provide a report on those activities to Conference and Delegate Meetings."

Carried 34 - 21.

Resolution - Glasgow Branch - "That this Conference, whilst recognising that the conquest of political power by the working-class through the medium of contesting elections is fundamentally essential, is of the opinion that, for the time being it is inexpedient for the Party to put up candidates for the following reasons:-
Firstly, our experience of the results of contesting previous elections indicates the extent of the working-class political immaturity and therefore the need for extensive and intensive Socialist propaganda in order to make Socialists.
Secondly, that the meagre results of our efforts were ridiculously out of all proportion to the expense, time and effort put into the task.
Thirdly, having special regard and concern for the Party's financial plight, its promises and other commitments, we think that for some time to come our chief concern should be the improvement of our organisation and the extension of our activities.
Fourthly, that having considered the matter as a whole, we believe that far better results - for the same efforts - can be obtained by our activities being spread over as wide a National area as possible, instead of concentrating attention to small areas".

Lost 10 - 65.

Camden Branch - Members opposed electoral activity because they thought it was a waste of time and money because workers were not ready to accept Socialism. The contrary was the case, it being a good test of the strength and quality of the Party membership and it was a great opportunity for bringing the case for Socialism before the workers.

E.C. Member - (Lake) Experience has shown that little publicity gained from contesting elections. No letters were received as of Parliamentary activity, yet publicity was put forward as a for contesting. Against this, an advertisement in an Esperanto brought many replies from many European countries. This small expenditure of funds did more than all the propaganda at election time, and a sensible way in which to use the Party funds. People were not more politically alive at election times; most of them had already made their minds on their vote and it was like trying to convert dead men. We would find material for the Party scattered over the country and was illogical to concentrate on one area.

Paddington Branch. Not trying to vote catch but to increase interest the Party at a time when political interest was aroused.

West Ham Branch. Very valuable experience had been gained but it was the work of the Party to canvass literature and our ideas verbally at all times. Workers were looking round for an alternative to Capitalism.

Manchester Branch. Why did the Party put up candidates if, as was claimed, it did not want votes. We could serve the same purpose if we displayed big placards and paraded London.

Bloomsbury Branch. Elections were some of the best times for putting our case. It is then that workers wish to hear the case of every Party.

10. ORGANISATIONS ABROAD.

Item for Discussion St. Pancras Branch - "Associate membership of the Party in Overseas countries"

Resolution - Fulham Branch "That an Internal Central Branch be established for people wishing to identify themselves with the Party and living in a country where no Socialist Party exists; the Branch to be run wherever possible on the same lines as the present Central Branch"
Lost 21 - 60.

Amendment - Bloomsbury Branch "Delete 'the Branch to be run wherever possible on the same lines as the present Central Branch'".
Lost 26 - 50.

St. Pancras Branch - All Socialists, wherever they lived, should be afforded opportunities to take an interest in the activity of the Party and be permitted to vote.

S.W. London Branch - Agreed, but it was unwise to allow Socialists abroad any control of the S.I.G.B. When able they would form parties in the countries in which they lived.

Item for Discussion - St. Pancras Branch. "The possibility of establishing Socialism in backward or undemocratic countries".

Resolution - Lewisham Branch "That this Conference calls the attention of the E.C. to the St. Pancras Branch Item for Discussion No. 34 as being a suitable subject to be utilised at some future Head Office Forum".
Carried 30 - 11.

(Following the above resolution a Motion for next business was carried).

11. REPORTS ON COMPANION PARTIES.

No action.

Fraternal greetings were received from the Socialist Parties of Canada, Ireland, New Zealand and from a sympathiser in Austria.

Resolution - S.W. London and Southend Branches. "That fraternal greetings be sent to all Parties and the Comrade in Austria"
Agreed.

12. FINANCE.

Resolution - Camberwell Branch - "That this Conference instructs the Executive Committee that special funds of the Party shall not be used for any purpose other than the specific one for which they were contributed except with the express permission of the contributors"
Lost 29 - 55.

Amendment - Lewisham Branch. "That 'contributors' be deleted, and 'the Party' inserted".
Lost 36 - 44.

Glasgow Branch - "Add 'and the General Fund of the Party' to be used for the purpose of contesting elections' ".
Lost 9 - 75.

OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Edinburgh - East Ham and Kingston Branches - "That Item No.5. (Amendments) be taken as read, and the Report of the 48th Executive Committee be adopted".
Agreed.

AMENDMENTS TO RULES.

- Edinburgh, Fulham, Islington and S.W. London Branches
Rule 1, Line 1. "Delete '3d' and insert '5d'" Lost 29 - 55
- Edinburgh, Islington and S.W. London Branches
Rule 9, Line 2 - "Delete '2d' and insert '4d'" Lost 15 - 55
- Fulham Branch
Rule 9 Line 2 - "Delete '2d' and insert '5d'" Lost 16 - 53
- St. Pancras Branch
Rule 2 Line 1 -- "Delete '3d' and insert '4d'" Lost 28 - 56
Rule 9 Line 2 - "Delete '2d' and insert '3d'" Lost 27 - 53
- Paddington Branch
Rule 2 - "That the whole rule be deleted" -- Lost 7 - 79
Rule 9 "That the whole rule be deleted" Lost 7 - 79
Rule 4 Line 9 - "That the words 'showing members in good financial standing' be deleted" Lost 14 - 72
Rule 11 Lines 10 and 11 - "That the words 'and the financial standing of each member' be deleted" Lost 7 - 72
Rule 3 Lines 3 and 4 - "That the words 'provide a clear record be furnished by his branch' be deleted" Lost 5 - 74
New Rule "That the lapsing of a Member through non-attendance at the Branch meetings be left to the discretion of the Branch. The Branch shall, however, give the Member 28 days 'notice'". Lost 2 - 82
Amendment - Fulham Branch - "Insert after the word 'meetings' on line 2 the words 'after 8 consecutive weeks'". Lost 0 - 84
- Amendment - Paddington Branch - (1) "Delete 'That' in line 1. (2) Delete 'non-attendance at the Branch meetings' and insert 'lack of interest in the Party shall'. (3) Delete all after 'discretion of the Branch' and insert 'the Member shall be immediately notified of the Branch's intentions, and if after the expiration of 28 days no satisfactory explanation is received, may be lapsed by his Branch'" Lost 5 - 79
- Hampstead Branch
Rule 2 Line 1 - "Delete '3d per week' and insert '1/6d per calendar month'" Lost 14 - 59
Rule 2 Line 3 - "Delete 'official due stamp' and insert 'membership card initialled by the Branch Treasurer'" Lost 19 - 58
Rule 2 Line 7 - "Delete '13 weeks' and insert 'three calendar months'" Lost 16 - 61
Rule 2 Line 9 - "Delete '28 days' and insert 'one calendar month'" Lost 12 - 65
Rule 9 - "That the rule be deleted and substituted as follows:- 'Each Branch shall remit monies to Head Office at the rate of 1/- per calendar month per member except those excused under Rule 2; such monies to be in accordance with the information furnished in the Quarterly report on the numerical strength and financial condition of the Branch' ". Lost 12 - 61
- Deferring Resolution on the above Amendments to Rule 2 and 9 moved by S.W. London Branch - "That the whole matter be deferred until the 1953 Annual Conference and in the meantime the Executive Committee be instructed to appoint a special committee of enquiry with power to ask for any further suggestions from Branches"
Lost 31 - 51

St. Pancras Branch

Rule 23 - "Add 'Branches shall hold at least one special summoned meeting when instructing their Delegate to the Conference Agenda'" Carried 81 -

Fulham and Paddington Branches

Rule 16 - "That Rule 16 be deleted" Lost 7 - 76

Camberwell, Lewisham, Paddington and St. Pancras Branches

Rule 19 Line 4 - "Delete 'the principle of the second ballot shall apply'" Lost 27 - 44

Fulham Branch

Rule 12 - "Add 'no member of the Party shall sit on the Executive Committee for more than two years in succession'" Lost 7 - 74

Paddington Branch

Rule 19 Line 4 & 5 - "That all after 'elected' be deleted and 'by the Executive Committee' be inserted" Lost 9 - 72

Fulham Branch

Rule 19 - "That 'General Secretary' be deleted and 'Secretary to the Executive Committee' be inserted and that all after 'Trustees' be deleted and 'to be appointed by the Executive Committee' be inserted" Lost 7 - 74

Hampstead Branch

Rule 26 Line 6 - "That after 'desired' insert 'The Executive Committee shall call a specially summoned Party Meeting before the issue of Ballot papers'" Carried 41 - 37
Amendment - S.W. London Branch - "Delete 'Party' and insert 'Delegate'" Lost 20 - 58

Hampstead Branch

Rule 26 Line 8 - "After 'Poll' insert 'The Executive Committee shall inform Branches of the subject matter of a Party Poll six weeks before the date of voting papers'" Lost 18 - 50

Paddington Branch

Rule 27 Line 2, 3 and 4 - "Delete all after 'year'" Lost 5 - 67

Note: Before the voting was taken on Amendments to Rules, the following resolution was carried:-

Fulham and High Wycombe Branches

"That Paddington Branch's Amendments to Rule 2 be raised as first business under Amendments to Rules" Carried

After the voting on Amendments to Rule the following was tabled:-

Islington Branch - "That this Conference recommends that Branch instructions on Amendments to Rules should be handed to the Standing Orders Committee before the Conference commences; the results to be declared by the Chairman later in the proceedings" Lost 23 - 33

Islington Branch - The resolution would obviate the need for Branches verbally announcing to Conference their votes and thus avoid the hold-up in the proceedings whilst the votes on each resolution were called, counted and declared.

S.W. London Branch - Branches should consider limiting the making and amending of Rules to tri-annual conferences.

Hampstead Branch - The resolution by omitting opportunity for debate failed to make provision for Delegates with a 'free-hand' who came to decide on behalf of their Branches after listening to the discussions

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION (Not reached)

Manchester Branch - "A paid Editor be appointed with the 'Socialist Standard' being published fortnightly and other propaganda methods be investigated so that more extensive results be obtained"

-16 -

St. James Branch "The advisability of mortgaging Head Office to carry out propaganda commitments".

St. James Branch "The Bristol-Vicary Plan".

St. James Branch "Is Socialism a philosophy"

Resolution - Hackney and High Wycombe Branches

"That Items for Discussion 24, 25, 33 and 35(above) be referred to the Delegate Meeting".

Agreed

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR CONFERENCE 1952

Hall Hire	£52. 10. 0	<u>Collections:</u>	
Gratuities	3. 0. 0	Friday	£13. 12. 3
Band	8. 10. 0	Saturday	7. 0. 0
<u>Delegates Fares:</u>		Sunday	7. 2. 1
Kelvingrove (3)	18. 0. 0	Dance Tickets	28. 0. 6
Glasgow (2)	12. 0. 0	Collection - Rally	12. 0. 0
Manchester (3)	8. 8. 0	Refreshments & Raffle	6. 19. 6
Bradford (1)	2. 17. 0	Debit balance	30. 10. 8
	<u>£105. 5. 0</u>		<u>£105. 5. 0</u>

Minutes of the 48th Annual Conference (1952) held at Conway Hall, London, W.C.1., on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 11th, 12th, and 13th April 1952.

SESSIONS: 1st Day: 11.05 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
2nd Day: 11.15 a.m. - 6.30 p.m.
3rd Day: 11.20 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

	<u>Delegates present</u>	<u>Branches represented</u>
<u>1st Day</u>	72	27

Delegates from Paddington were permitted to sit without credentials.
Delegates of Brighton Branch (formed within the six months preceding Conference) were given permission to sit and vote under Rule 22.
Eccles was not represented.

<u>2nd Day</u>	59	25
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A delegate from Glasgow (City) was given permission to sit without credentials.
Dartford, Eccles, and Tottenham were not represented.

<u>3rd Day</u>	70	27
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Eccles was not represented.

Central Branch members were unable to return any voting papers as these had inadvertently been sent out late from Head Office.

CHAIRMAN: A. Price.
VICE-CHAIRMAN: W. Waters.
TELLERS: R. Guy and R. Jones.

REPORT OF THE 48th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: No action.
2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ATTENDANCES: No action.
3. BRANCHES, MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANISATION:

(a) Branches

Item for Discussion No.30 was moved as a resolution as follows:

Resolution - Fulham (Flitter) and Manchester (Atkinson) "That branches whose membership comprises 50 or more members be encouraged to form an additional branch in a neighbouring area."
Lost 13 - 28.

Minutes of the 48th Annual Conference (1952) (Contd.).

(b) Membership

Item for Discussion - Fulham "That the question of re-admittance into the Party of previously expelled members be discussed."

Resolution - S.W.London (McLoughlin) and Greydon (Rheda)
"That this Conference recommends the E.C. when dealing with expelled members re-applying for membership to re-admit the applicant in the event of him giving an undertaking not to act in a similar way which resulted in his expulsion."
Lost by a large majority.

(c) Central Branch

(1) Membership

Item for Discussion 32 was moved as follows:-

Resolution - Bloomsbury (Offord and Adams) "That this Conference recommends the E.C. to report on ways and means on increasing the activity of Central Branch members in the propaganda and work of the Party."
Carried nem.con.

(11) Finances

No action.

(d) Groups

No action.

(e) Ballet Procedure; The Second Ballet

No action.

(f) Ballet Procedure: Ballet by Post

Resolution - Islington "That this Conference is of the opinion that the method of pre-paid postal ballet should be discontinued and we revert to the former method of distributing ballet papers through branch secretaries." Carried 39 - 34.

(g) Ballet Procedure: Party Pells: Written Statements.

Resolution - Hampstead "That this Conference is opposed to the donation of Head Office Funds to branches for the issue of controversial circulars in Party Pells."
Carried 43 - 37.

(h) Conference Procedure

Resolution - Islington "That this Conference instructs the Executive Committee to call for nominations for a

Minutes of the 48th Annual Conference (1952) (Contd.).

Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the 1953 Conference, a call to be sent to all branches with the Preliminary Agenda. All nominations received to be sent out with the Final Agenda and Branch Delegates to vote as instructed at Conference. The comrades appointed to operate at the 1953 Delegate Meeting, 1954 Conference and any Party Meeting that may occur. This shall be the method of appointing Chairman and Vice Chairman for all future Conferences, Delegate Meetings and Party Meetings; no other method of appointment shall be allowed."

Lost 21 - 53

Resolution - Fulham "That this Conference instructs the Executive Committee to consider changing the procedure at Conferences and Delegate Meetings along the following lines:

- a. That the Executive Committee call for resolutions and amendments to rule, etc., as now.
- b. That branches convene special meetings to discuss all items.
- c. That all branches send three delegates to Conference regardless of the size of the Branch.
- d. That delegates attend Conference to state their branch's attitude.
- e. That delegates take notes of other Branches' points of view.
- f. That the Executive Committee prepare through the Secretary a report of Conference proceedings including discussion (naming the branch contributing the discussion) together with all resolutions, amendments, and amendments to rules, to be sent to all branches.
- g. That the branches will call special meetings to discuss the resolutions, etc., in the light of the Executive Committee report and the report of their delegates. The members will vote at these meetings on the resolutions (for and against) and this will be returned to Head Office and the result declared.

Where the above conflicts with Rule 22, it shall be regarded as amendment to rule.

It will be seen that no voting will take place at the Conference (except in matters of extreme urgency). This is considered preferable to the present procedure where branches instruct their delegates on how to vote without necessarily having heard the views and information of other branches. The suggested procedure will have the effect of improving

Minutes of the 48th Annual Conference (1952) (Contd.).

discussion at Conferences thereby enhancing knowledge of members. It will make our Conferences and Delegate Meetings stimulating events. The voting will be an accurate reflection of Party opinion." Lost 38 - 41.

Resolution - Hampstead "That this Conference is in favour of a Chairman and Vice Chairman being elected at the Annual Conference to take charge of all Party Meetings including Conference and Delegate Meeting for the ensuing year." Lost 24 - 49.

Resolution - Hampstead "That this Conference is in favour of amending Conference Standing Orders as follows:- Clause (b) line 2: Delete all after 'challenged' and insert 'by the following motion: that the Chairman leave the Chair; and that if this motion is carried, the Vice Chairman shall act as Chairman until the item in dispute is disposed of.'" Lost 30 - 49.

- (i) Internal Party Journal. No action.
- (j) Revision of the Declaration of Principles. No action.
- (k) Party Year No action.
- (l) Summer School No action.
- (m) Head Office: Organisation. No action.
- (n) History of the Party and the Companion Parties

Item for Discussion - Manchester was moved as follows:-

Resolution - Paddington (May) and Hackney (Ivimey) "That this Conference recommends the E.C. to consider the possibility of an individual or group of members preparing a bound volume to be published in 1954 on the Party's history over the past 50 years." Carried 33 - 13.

Amendment - Lewisham (Guy and Edmonds) "That 'in 1954' be deleted." Lost by a large majority.

- (o) Head Office Library No action.
- (p) Central Organiser's Report No action.
- (q) Premises No action.

Minutes of the 48th Annual Conference (1952) (Contd.).

(r) Membership and Armed Forces

Resolution - Camberwell "That members of the Armed Forces shall not be eligible for membership of the Party."
Lost 13 - 66.

Resolution - St. Pancras "That this Conference rules that all members of H.M. Forces should be ineligible for membership of the Party, and all Party members joining H.M. Forces should resign from the Party."
Lost 22 - 57.

Amendment - Lewisham "That this resolution be amended to read:- 'That this Conference rules that all members of the Armed Forces be ineligible for membership of the Party, and any Party member joining the Armed Forces shall automatically cease to be a member of the Party.'"
Lost 17 - 62.

(A motion that the vote be taken was carried by a large majority after discussion on the above resolution and amendment.)

Resolution - Paddington (May and Mercer) "That this Conference re-affirms the decision of the 1933 Conference which was as follows:-
"That this Conference endorses the ruling given by the 29th E.C. on 5th July 1932, on this question, viz:-
"That as many workers are forced by economic pressure to join the armed forces, the E.C. rules, that such employment shall not necessarily prevent workers from joining the Party. All Forms 'A' shall receive consideration and each application shall be decided on its merits."
and the 1949 Party Poll which affirmed
"That any member who voluntarily (i.e. other than conscripted) joins the Armed Forces (Army, Navy and Air Force) shall be deemed to have acted in a manner detrimental to the interests of the Party."
Carried 42 - 8.

4. PROPAGANDA

(a) Provincial Propaganda

Resolution - St. Pancras "That this Conference ^{recommend} instructs the Executive Committee to carry out a provincial propaganda tour on the same basis as the resolution

Minutes of the 48th Annual Conference (1952) (Contd.).

carried by the 1951 Annual Conference."

(The resolution carried by the 1951 Annual Conference was "That this Conference is not in favour of appointing a full time Provincial Propagandist Organiser at the present and instructs the Executive Committee to appoint ~~two~~ more members for a period of three months to work together in different ~~Provincial~~ Provincial Centres during the Spring and Summer each year; these members to be paid an allowance agreed between them and the E.C.")

Carried 70 - 6.

Amendment - S.W.London "Delete 'instructs' and insert 'recommends'."

Carried 48 - 31.

Amendment - Manchester "Add 'but for a period of five months.'"

Lost 30 - 36.

(b) Centrally Organised Indoor Meetings: London

Resolution - Hackney (Ivimey and Temple) "That in the opinion of this Conference more publicity should be given to indoor meetings."

Carried by a large majority

(A motion that the vote be taken on the above resolution was carried.)

Resolution - Islington (Terry and Hart) "That this Conference is of the opinion that most indoor meetings be arranged and organised by the branches and not from the centre."

Carried by a large majority.

(c) Mid-day Meetings.

No action.

(d) East London Area.

No action.

(e) Speakers and Meetings.

No action.

(f) Propaganda: Special Meeting of Organisers, etc.

No action.

(g) Statistics

Resolution - Paddington (May and Walters) "That this Conference recommends that in future E.C. Reports to Conferences and Delegate Meetings a complete list of propaganda statistics be included."

Carried by a large majority.

Minutes of the 48th Annual Conference (1952) (Contd.).

(h) General

Item for Discussion - Hackney "Party Propaganda."

Item for Discussion - St. Pancras "Is outdoor propaganda out-of-date?"

Resolution - Camberwell (Baldwin) and Fulham (Cox) "That this Conference recommends the E.C. to abandon the present method of testing speakers and let branches do this, sending remarks to the E.C. in the same way as Forms 'A' for approval."

Lost by a large majority.

Resolution - Hackney (James and Ivimey) "That this Conference recommends that a committee be set up to investigate the possibilities of selective propaganda."

Lost 13 - 35.

Resolution - Bloomsbury (Clark) and Paddington (May) "That this Conference strongly recommends the E.C. to investigate the whole question of propaganda with a view to securing the fullest utilisation of Party resources, i.e. the training of speakers; methods of enabling speakers to keep up-to-date on current questions by the organisation of meetings at which speakers and other members can discuss policy, topical issues, and methods of organising outdoor and indoor propaganda."

Carried nem.con.

Resolution - S.W. London (Hassett and McLoughlin) "That this Conference recommends the E.C. to instruct the Propaganda Committee, wherever possible, to pair up each member passing the speakers test with a regular speaker for a period of three months."

Carried by a large majority.

Resolution - Manchester (Atkinson and Littlemore) "That this Conference recommends the E.C. to dispense with the present rota of speakers and implement the method of sending names and addresses of speakers to branches for personal contact."

Lost by a large majority.

Item for discussion - Leyton "The responsibility for utterances made by non-qualified Party Speakers." (After some discussion a motion of "Next business" was carried.)

Minutes of the 48th Annual Conference (1962) (Contd.).

5. LITERATURE.

(There was insufficient time for Conference to deal with this section of the report, and it was taken as read. Therefore, no action was taken on the following items. Resolutions on the Final Agenda on which delegates had been instructed were put to the vote with results as indicated below)

- (a) Pamphlets Committee
- (b) Writing of Pamphlets.
- (c) "Questions of the Day".
- (d) "Socialism and Religion"
- (e) "Socialist Standard"
- (f) "Socialist Standard". Price; Number printed; Paper Situation.

Resolution - St. Pancras "That this Conference considers that in order to avoid the loss to Head Office the 'Socialist Standard' should be sold to branches at the full price." Lost 14 - 61.

- (g) Rejected Articles: Return.
- (h) Literature Sales.
- (i) Book Department
- (j) "Socialist Manifesto"

Resolution - Southend "That a similar publication to the Socialist Party of Canada's 'Socialist Manifesto' be printed by the Party." Carried 37 - 21.

Amendment - Manchester "Add 'and that the Party's pamphlet 'Socialism' be withdrawn.'" Lost 18 - 59.

- (k) Pamphlets on current affairs

Resolution - Southend "That the Executive Committee be recommended to publish occasional pamphlets dealing with current affairs and when funds become available for this purpose." Carried 32 - 16.

Amendment - Manchester "Delete 'recommended' and insert

Minutes of the 48th Annual Conference (1952) (Contd.).

'instructed' and delete also 'as and when funds become available for this purpose.'

Lost 13 - 39.

Amendment - Paddington Branch "Delete all wording after 'current affairs.'"

Lost 21 - 28.

6. EDUCATION

Resolution - Paddington (May and Walters) "That this Conference recommends the E.C. to review the Party educational system prior to the commencement of the 1952/53 sessions."
Carried unan.

7. TRAINING OF MEMBERS FOR FULL TIME POSTS.

No action.

8. PUBLICITY.

Resolution - S.W.London (Mayes) and Camberwell (Baldwin) "That this Conference deplores the fact that branches are not taking advantage of the circular letters available to T.U. branches and urges the E.C. to bring the attention of branches to this important means of propaganda."
Carried nem.con.

9. ELECTORAL ACTIVITY

Resolution - Bloomsbury and Lewisham "That this Conference instructs the Executive Committee to contest the next General Election."
Carried 44 - 37.

Resolution - Paddington "That this Conference re-affirms the Party's support of Parliamentary activity and that at the next General Election a candidate or candidates shall be put forward."
Carried 46 - 35.

Resolution - Lewisham "That in the event of a By-election occurring in a constituency where there are sufficient members to sign the Nomination Paper this Conference is desirous that the Executive Committee should give consideration to the contesting of such By-election where the application comes from a branch."
Carried 51 - 17.

Resolution - St.Paneras "That as this Conference regards the contesting of elections as an integral part of the Party's activities, and the logical outcome of our propaganda relating to Parliament, this Conference instructs the Executive Committee to prepare for and contest elections at all times subject to the necessary funds being available."
Carried 44 - 31.

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Amendment - Paddington "Delete all wording after 'at all times.'" Lost 35 - 39.

Resolution - Hackney "That no Parliamentary Election shall be contested without the Executive Committee first obtaining the approval of the Party by taking a Party Poll." Lost 25 - 55.

Amendment - Paddington "That the words 'first obtaining' be altered to 'having' and all words after 'Party' be deleted." Lost 32 - 45.

(A motion that the vote be taken was carried on the above resolution and amendment).

Resolution - Kelvingrove "That only a constituency or constituencies in which at least 600 'Socialist Standards' have been sold regularly for a period of at least six months immediately prior to the election be contested." Lost 5 - 66.

Resolution - Kelvingrove "That the Executive Committee obtain a quarterly report from branches preparing constituencies for electoral action on methods being used and results obtained. The Executive Committee to provide a report on these activities to Conference and Delegate Meetings." Carried 34 - 21.

Resolution - Glasgow "That this Conference whilst recognising that the conquest of political power by the working class through the medium of contesting elections is fundamentally essential, is of the opinion that, for the time being it is inexpedient for the Party to put up candidates for the following reasons:-
Firstly, our experience of the results of contesting previous elections indicates the extent of working class political immaturity and therefore the need for extensive and intensive Socialist propaganda in order to make Socialists.
Secondly, that the meagre results of our efforts were ridiculously out of all proportion to the expense, time and effort put into the task.
Thirdly, having special regard and concern for the Party's financial plight, its premises and other commitments, we think that for some time to come our chief concern should be the improvement of our organisation and the extension of our activities.

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Fourthly, that having considered the matter as a whole, we believe that far better results - for the same efforts - can be obtained by our activities being spread over as wide a national area as possible, instead of concentrating attention to small areas."

Lost 10 - 65.

(A motion that the vote be taken was eventually carried on the above resolution.)

10. ORGANISATIONS ABROAD

Item for Discussion - St. Pancras "Associate Membership of the Party in overseas countries."

Resolution - Fulham "That an international central branch be established for people wishing to identify themselves with the Party and living in a country where no Socialist Party exists; the branch to be run wherever possible on the same lines as the present central branch."

Lost 21 - 60.

Amendment - Bloomsbury Branch "Delete 'the branch to be run wherever possible on the same lines as the present central branch.'"

Lost 26 - 50.

Item for Discussion St. Pancras "The possibility of establishing Socialism in backward or undemocratic countries."

Resolution - Lewisham (Guy and Edmonds) "That this Conference calls the attention of the E.C. to the St. Pancras Branch Item for Discussion, No. 34, as being a suitable subject to be utilised at some future Head Office Forum."

Carried 30 - 11.

(Following the above resolution a motion for next business was carried.)

11. REPORTS ON COMPANION PARTIES

No action.

Fraternal greetings were received from the S.P. of Canada, S.P. of Ireland, S.P. of New Zealand, and a sympathiser in Austria.

Resolution - S.W. London and Southend "That fraternal greetings be sent to all Parties and the comrade in Austria."

Agreed.

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12. FINANCE

Resolution - Camberwell "That this Conference instructs the Executive Committee that special funds of the Party shall not be used for any purpose other than the specific one for which they were contributed, except with the express permission of the contributors." Lost 29 - 55.

Amendment - Lewisham "That 'contributors' be deleted, and 'the Party' inserted." Lost 36 - 44.

Addendum - Glasgow "Add ' and that the General Fund of the Party shall not be used for the purpose of contesting elections." Lost 9 - 75.

13. ADOPTION OF E.C. REPORT.

Resolution - West Ham (ThurLOW) and Kingston (Weaver) "That Item No. 5 (Literature) be taken as read, and the report of the 48th Executive Committee be adopted." Agreed.

AMENDMENTS TO RULES

Bloomsbury, Fulham, Islington and S.W.London:

Rule 2, Line 1. Delete "3d" and insert "6d" Lost 29 - 55.

Bloomsbury, Islington and S.W.London:

Rule 9, Line 2. Delete "Twopence" and insert "4d" Lost 15 - 55.

Fulham:

Rule 9, Line 2. Delete "Twopence" and insert "5d" Lost 16 - 53.

St.Pancras:

Rule 2, Line 1. Delete "3d" and insert "4d" Lost 28 - 56.

Rule 9, Line 2. Delete "Twopence" and insert "3d" Lost 27 - 53.

Paddington:

Rule 2. "That the whole rule be deleted." Lost 7 - 79.

Rule 9. "That the whole rule be deleted." Lost 7 - 79.

Rule 4, Line 9. That the words "showing members in good financial standing" be deleted. Lost 14 - 72.

*Amend
with
Parker*

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Rule 11, Lines 10 & 11. That the words "and the financial standing of each member" be deleted.

Lost 7 - 72.

Rule 3, Lines 3 & 4. That the words "provided a clear record be furnished by his last branch" be deleted.

Lost 5 - 74.

New Rule "That the lapsing of a member through non-attendance at the Branch meetings be left to the discretion of the Branch. The Branch shall, however, give the member 28 days' notice."

Lost 2 - 82.

Amendment - Fulham Insert after the word "Meetings" on line 2 the words "after eight consecutive weeks".

Lost 0 - 84.

Amendment - Paddington

1. Delete "that" in line 1.
2. Delete "non-attendance at the Branch meetings" and insert "lack of interest in the Party, shall".
3. Delete "all after "discretion of the Branch" and insert "the member shall be immediately notified of the Branch's intentions, and if after the expiration of 28 days no satisfactory explanation is received, may be lapsed by the Branch."

Lost 5 - 79.

Hampstead:

Rule 2, Line 1. "Delete "3d. per week" and insert "1/6 per calendar month"

Lost 14 - 59.

Rule 2, Line 3. Delete "official due stamp" and insert "membership card initialled by the Branch Treasurer"

Lost 19 - 58.

Rule 2, Line 7. Delete "13 weeks" and insert "3 calendar months"

Lost 16 - 61.

Rule 2, Line 9. Delete "28 days" and insert "one calendar month"

Lost 12 - 65.

Rule 9. The rule to be deleted and substituted as follows: "Each branch shall remit monies to the Head Office at the rate of one shilling per calendar month per member except those excused under rule 2; such monies to be in accordance with the information furnished in the quarterly report on the numerical strength and financial condition of the branch."

Lost 12 - 61.

Deferring resolution on the above Amendments to Rules 2 & 9.
S.W.London: "That the whole matter be deferred until the

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1953 Annual Conference and in the meantime the Executive Committee be instructed to appoint a special committee of enquiry with power to ask for any further suggestions from branches."
Lost 31 - 51.

St. Pancras:

Rule 23. Add "Branches shall hold at least one specially summoned meeting when instructing their delegates on the Conference Agenda."
Carried 81 - 5.

Fulham and Paddington:

Rule 16. That Rule 16 be deleted. Lost 7 - 76.

Camberwell, Lewisham, Paddington, and St. Pancras:

Rule 12, Line 4. Delete "the principle of the second ballot shall apply"
Lost 27 - 44.

Fulham:

Rule 12. Add "No member of the Party shall sit on the Executive Committee for more than two years in succession."
Lost 7 - 74.

Paddington:

Rule 19, Lines 4 & 5. That all after "elected" be deleted and "by the Executive Committee" inserted.
Lost 9 - 72.

Fulham:

Rule 19. That "General Secretary" be deleted and "Secretary to the Executive Committee" inserted and that all after "Trustees" be deleted and "to be appointed by the Executive Committee" be inserted.
Lost 7 - 74.

Hampstead:

Rule 26, Line 6. After "desired" insert "The Executive Committee shall call a specially summoned Party Meeting before the issue of Ballot Papers."
Carried 41 - 37.

Amendment - S.W. London: Delete "Party" and insert "Delegate"
Lost 20 - 58.

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Hampstead:

Rule 26, Line 8. After "Poll" insert "The Executive Committee shall inform branches of the subject matter of a Party Poll six weeks before the date of issue of voting papers." Lost 18 - 50.

Paddington:

Rule 27. Lines 2/3/4. Delete all after "year" Lost 5 - 67.

(Before the voting was taken on Amendments to Rules the following resolution was carried:-

Resolution - Fulham (Flitter) and High Wycombe (Roe) "That Paddington Branch's amendments to Rule 2 be raised as first business under Amendments to Rules." Carried.

After the voting the following resolution was tabled:-

Resolution - Islington (Robertson and Terry) "That this Conference recommends that Branch instructions on Amendments to Rules should be handed to the Standing Orders Committee before the Conference commences the results to be declared by the chairman later on in the proceedings." Lost 23 - 33.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There was insufficient time to discuss the following items:-

Manchester: "A paid editor be appointed with the Socialist Standard being published fortnightly and other propaganda methods be investigated so that more extensive results may be obtained."

St. Pancras: "The advisability of mortgaging Head Office to carry out propaganda commitments."

Kingston: "The Bristol Vicary Plan"

St. Pancras: "Is Socialism a philosophy?"

Resolution - Hackney (Ivimey) and High Wycombe (Roe) "That Items for Discussion 24, 25, 33, & 35 be referred to the Delegate Meeting." Agreed.

COLLECTIONS totalled £27.14. 4.